

Push Braidwood Bid for Arsenal Housing Site

**Thurlow in Capital to
Interview Mason,
Federal Officials**

By ROBERT W. RICHARDS

Washington, Jan. 10. (Copley Press)—Paul E. Thurlow, president of the Braidwood Chamber of Commerce was in the capital today pressing his community's hopes that it may become a site for housing new workers at the Joliet arsenal.

He learned from Rep. Noah M. Mason of his 15th district, however, that his visit was somewhat precipitate since the new congress is still in the throes of organization, with committees in the house still to be named.

MASON explained that eventually the administration will undoubtedly offer a bill for additional war housing, which will be referred in the lower chamber to its banking and currency committee for study.

Until such a measure clears the legislative gamut, Braidwood must wait to apply for a share of the construction Mason assumes will be provided under its terms.

Public Housing Commissioner John Taylor Egan, answering a letter of inquiry from the congressman about Braidwood's chances for selecting as a location for homes for Joliet arsenal workers, emphasized that his agency has no authority to build defense housing.

EGAN SUGGESTED that Thurlow and other interested Braidwood citizens present their plans to William E. Bergeron, head of the Public Housing administration's Chicago field office at 201 North Wells street.

Such preliminaries, he said, could be gotten out of the way in anticipation of probable congressional action for providing new defense housing in critical areas.

Because the Joliet arsenal will become the ammunition center for an expanded U. S. army, calling for the employment of an undetermined number of new employees, Braidwood has urged the government to erect housing for these workers within or near its corporate boundaries.

THE COAL CITY Chamber of Commerce also is offering sites for housing for Joliet arsenal hands. Rep. Mason, in reply to a letter from Coal City business men, explained that like Braidwood they must await congressional legislation and appropriations before action could be taken.

Coal City might ready its plans, meanwhile, and present them to the Chicago field office of FHA, he said.

Mason emphasized that appropriate legislation, plus funds to implement it, might not be expected for several weeks probably not before spring. A bill must first be offered by the executive department based on a survey of needs, then move thru committee hearings, and if favorably reported, be acted upon by both senate and house. All that takes time, he added.